

Press Release National Labor Relations Board Office of the General Counsel

April 23, 2010

Contact:

Office of Public Affairs 202-273-1991 publicinfo@nlrb.gov www.nlrb.gov

NLRB Action Helps To Save Hugo Boss Plant Jobs preserved and new contract reached at Ohio manufacturer

Renewed bargaining prompted in part by action taken by the National Labor Relations Board has resulted in an agreement between employees represented by WORKERS UNITED/SEIU and clothing manufacturer Hugo Boss that will keep a plant open and preserve several hundred jobs in Brooklyn, Ohio.

"Clearly, both parties deserve credit for promptly returning to the table and hammering out a new contract," said Cleveland NLRB Regional Director Fred Calatrello. "This is a win for everyone, but most importantly for employees."

The three-year contract signed this morning and ratified by employees imposes some wage concessions and provides for possible buyouts, but also calls for the employer to remain in Ohio. Earlier, Hugo Boss declared that the parties had reached a bargaining impasse and it would close the Brooklyn plant to move offshore. In response, the union on January 15, 2010, filed a charge with the NLRB's Cleveland office alleging that the Company had bargained in bad faith.

After an investigation, Regional Director Calatrello found reasonable cause to believe that the Company had violated the NLRA. However, before the complaint issued, Hugo Boss entered into a settlement which provided that the Company would return to the bargaining table and bargain in good faith with the Union. That bargaining resulted in today's announcement of a new contract.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the power to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. The agency also acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions. The NLRB's Office of the General Counsel has independent prosecutorial discretion under the National Labor Relations Act to issue complaints alleging such unfair labor practices.